

NOTE: This information is used to determine compliance with Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. The requirements for HQT are different from the certification requirements for Missouri teachers. To review certification requirements for Missouri teachers, review Core Data Manual, Exhibit 10, information.

Guidance for HQT:

http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/grantmgmnt/PDF_Files/HQT_Title_II_Non-Regulatory_Guidance_0805.pdf

What is the definition of a highly qualified teacher?

The requirement that teachers be highly qualified applies to all public elementary or secondary school teachers employed by a local educational agency who teach a core academic subject. “Highly qualified” means that the teacher:

1. Has obtained full State **certification** as a teacher or passed the State teacher licensing examination and holds a license to teach in the State, and does not have certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis;
2. Holds a minimum of a **bachelor’s degree**; and
3. Has demonstrated **subject-matter competency** in each of the academic subjects in which the teacher teaches, in a manner determined by the State and in compliance with Section 9101(23) of ESEA. In Missouri, this is the Praxis II test. (All special education teachers need to have a special education certificate at a minimum. See below for requirements for special education teachers who are teaching core academic subjects.)

What is meant by “core academic subjects”?

The term “core academic subjects” means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, art, music, history, and geography [ESEA, Section 9101(11)]. In Missouri, art is defined as vocal/instrumental music and visual art (painting, drawing, ceramics, etc.) but NOT dance, NOT photography and NOT theater.

How do teachers meet the subject-matter competency requirements?

To demonstrate subject-matter competency, all teachers including special education teachers of core academic subjects must have the following for each academic subject in which the teacher teaches:

Appropriate Certification and

- a. Passing score on Praxis II test <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/teached/praxis.htm> or
- b. Complete the HOUSSE form for each subject they are teaching. (HOUSSE should only be used if teacher has a teaching certificate and they are teaching in a different subject area or if they have a Lifetime certificate.)

Pre-kindergarten teachers do not need to meet the HQT requirements, but they do need to meet Missouri’s certification requirements.

All kindergarten teachers (without K-8 certification) need to have early childhood education (Birth-Grade 3) certificate, as well as pass the appropriate Praxis II test code 0021, *Early Childhood Education Birth – Grade 3*.

All elementary teachers who teach core academic subjects for grades 1-6 must have Elementary Education (1-6) or (K-8) certification. Elementary teachers and special education elementary teachers need to pass the Praxis II test code 0011 or 5011 *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment* to show subject matter competency when teaching core academic subjects for grades 1-6. *NCLB Guidance A-30 through A-33 and appendix D*

All teachers including special education teachers who teach core academic subjects in grades 7 and up need to demonstrate core content knowledge in every subject they are teaching. See Praxis II test code (above) for the designated assessment and passing score. *NCLB Guidance A-13 and A-14*

Special Education teachers who teach core academic subjects exclusively to MAP-A students, regardless of grade level, need an Elementary Education 1-6 certificate or pass the Praxis II test code 0011 or 5011, *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*. NCLB Guidance A-30 through A-33 and Appendix D

Social Science is identified as a core academic subject in the NCLB law. The law identifies specific core academic areas of **civics and government, economics, history, and geography**. In Missouri, a teacher with the social studies certification who passed the Praxis II test code 0081 Social Studies: Content Knowledge is considered highly qualified. The content categories tested in this Praxis II test covers United States History, World History, Government/Civics/Political Science, Geography, Economics, and Behavioral Sciences. If a teacher uses the HOUSSE form, specific information/points must address any/each of the four designated areas taught.

Are there alternative routes to certification and do they meet the HQT requirements?

Provisional and temporary certificates are considered highly qualified as soon as possible for the grade level and subject matter indicated in their program of study **as soon as they pass the Praxis II test**. Any teacher who has been teaching four or more consecutive weeks must be highly qualified. If not, parent notification must go to the parents of the students taught by that teacher.

If the teacher does not pass the Praxis II test(s) for the grade level and subject matter they are teaching, they cannot be considered highly qualified until they can demonstrate they meet all of the HQT requirements. Teachers on a temporary or provisional certificate (including Teach for America) are considered alternative routes to certification. In addition, if the teacher does not complete the alternative certification program within the three-year period, the teacher is no longer considered highly qualified. *NCLB Guidance A-7 and A-8* – See the following site for the routes to licensure in Missouri: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/teachcert/routestolicensure.html>

Alternative or Innovative route: An individual with a bachelor's degree in a content area (such as mathematics or English) returns to a college of education for a program of study that may enable him to take courses and teach simultaneously. The teacher works under a two-year, provisional certificate and usually completes about 30 semester hours. **The district must mentor the teacher**. When the college program is completed and the Praxis II test passed, the college recommends and the individual receives an initial certificate. Some of these programs are offered via distance learning, some programs offer a master's degree plus certification and some offer only the certification. Teach for America teachers are considered alternative routes to certification.

Temporary Authorization route: An individual with a bachelor's degree in a content area (such as mathematics or English) takes self-directed courses – a maximum of 24 college credits (varies for different areas) to meet specified competencies, teaches for two years, is **mentored by the school district** and, generally, passes at least two exit examinations. The individual works under a one-year, renewable certificate that requires 9 semester hours of college credit each year in order to be renewed. When requirements are completed, the individual receives an initial certificate.

Eligibility for Special Education Temporary Certificate: Certification in Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical Disabilities (Special Education), grades K-12, does not require the connected content area; but candidates for Special Education certification follow the same requirements as stated above. It is necessary that the teacher also pass the appropriate content area for the subject(s) required by NCLB if teaching a core content subject.

Do short-and long-term substitute teachers need to meet the highly qualified requirements?

Substitutes take the place of teachers and, therefore, play a critical role in the classroom. It is strongly recommended that substitutes meet the requirements for HQT. **Substitute teachers who hold only a substitute certificate (a one-year certificate that requires a minimum of 60 semester hours) do not meet the HQT requirements**. There is no context for a substitute teacher to use the HOUSSE form because they are not considered certificated for purposes of HQT requirements. Likewise they do not become qualified by passing the Praxis II test.